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THE SUN, New York City.

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#### American Literature.

Mr. A. S. LEITCE of Missouri, one of the writers who shine in the city of St. Louis, has been thinking of the condition of Amer ican literature at this time, and has put his thought into print. It seems strange to him that, while a prodigious horde of literary folks are writing as fast as possible all the time, and while piles of books of all kinds are turned out every week of the year, yet, "in the summing up of the general record of American production," the show is poor. He can find few books that deserve to last: he cannot discern a single author of the first rank; and can but mourn over the lack famous names in the literature our otherwise fortile country. He tries to sustain his spirit by indulging in hops. He believes that "the present marvellous activity of literary men and women cannot go for nothing;" that "this activity portends the advent of great authors:"and that" we may look certainly in the next five or ten years for the appearance of writers of Illustrious genius, both in prose and verse."

We ourselves cannot admit the justice of Mr. LEITCH's opinion of the books and authors of our time. We find among the volumes that we are ever reading in all branches of literature, many that are worthy of very high praise, and that are the product of authors of genuine talent. Even this year we have read a number of American literary works that we shall always prize: some novels, several tomes in theology and philosophy, a few poetry books, and at least half a dozen volumes in various lines of science and natural history. It is the books of science, above all other books of our day, that are valuable. Our country has a body of scientific authors, to m, it seems to us, Mr. LEITCH of Missouri fails to do justice. We regret to say. after perusing Mr. LEITCH's essay upon American literature, that we cannot believe that he is really familiar with the books of

We are rejoiced, however, that he is empowered to predict the speedy advent of authors of illustrious genius. We shall slory in their coming, and must hope that the fine old State of Missouri will turn out a due proportion of the same.

### Colored Democrats and the Force Bill.

The letter of Mr. HENRY F. DOWNING of Brooklyn to Mr. JOSIAH M. QUINCY at Democratic Headquarters, deserves respectful, yet candid consideration. Mr. Downing is the editor of our esteemed contemporary, the Messenger. He is a colored man and he has been a Democrat. He is, furthermore, an honorable and intelligent citizen; and his career, as far as we have observed it, is creditable, we will not say to the African race, but to American citizenship.

There are many such colored citizens as Mr. Downing, both in the North and in the South. Many of them are Republicans. Some of them are Democrats. Intellectually superior to the average of their race, they occupy for that very reason conspicuous places among the 1,750,000 colored males of the voting age now living in the United gard themselves as representatives, in a certain sense, of the negro population, and feel that the cause of their less fortunate brethren is their own cause.

Mr. Downing writes to Headquarters deslaring his intention to part with the cracy and to support Gen. HARRISON for President. The reason which he assigns to very interesting to THE SUN. Mr. DOWN-ING says that when THE SUN put the Force bill issue at the front, or, as he exs it, began the "negro domination rusade," he became indignant. He went to Headquarters and called Mr. HAR-RITT'S attention to THE SUN'S attitude. nforming him that the effect of the issue would be "to prevent any self-respecting negro from supporting the Democratic na-tional ticket." Mr. HARRITY replied that nothing could be done, and explained, with an accurate preception of the facts, that the editor of THE SUN was not in the habit of having his thinking done for him by any

committee, national or other. Mr. Downing appears to have derived from Chairman HARRITY'S remarks the impression that the National Committee did not approve the idea of making the Force bill issue prominent in the canvass. Later e found that he had not understood Mr. HABBITY aright. When the National Demo cratic Committee "invited Mr. DANA Force bill and Negro Domination, so that it might be used as a campaign document," Mr. Downing was "much astonished." When Mr. STEVENsox, the Democratic candidate for Vice-President, began to make speeches in which "this unfortunate quantity" was the chief subject discussed, Mr. Downing was still more astonished. When the Democracy as a whole accepted the Force bill issue as the great issue of the campaign, his wonderment and dissatisfaction grew; and on Tuesday last, when Mr. Downing read Mr. CLEVELAND'S "later utterances," reached the conclusion that it is "impossible for a conscientious negro, without being false to himself and his people, to support the National Democratic ticket."

Mr. Downing is honest enough to indicate the real source of his dissatisfaction with Mr. CLEVELAND and the Democratic party. He attempted at Chicago to induce the Committee on Resolutions to insert in the Democratic platform a plank on Southern outrages practically the same in purpose and offect as that which forms part of the Republican Force bill programme. The Committee on Resolutions refused to accomme date him. Mr. Downing then cherished the hope that the Democratic candidate might come out for the Force bill and for Negro Domination. "I had such confidence in Mr. CLEVELAND," he says, "that I imagined that he, being greater than his party, would, if elected, be as powerful as he would be willing to interfere for the protection of Southern blacks." In other words, Mr. Downing is not a Democrat but a Republican so far as the Force bill issue is concerned; and he has hoped until now that by some mysterious alchemy he could nvert the Democratic party into a Force

dent who could be counted on to push through the odious programme of Federal

interference at the polls. Of course, Mr. Downing's hopes were loomed to disappointment. There are free trade Democrats, and there are protectionist Democrats, but such a thing as Force bill Democrat does not exist. Any man, black or white, who calls himself a Democrat and yet advocates the Force bill, Federal interference, Negro Domination policy of DAVENPORT, Gen. HARRISON, and the Republican party, properly belongs with the latter, and not with the Democracy. The possible loss of the votes of the few colored men who may share Mr. Downing's opinions in regard to this matter. counts for nothing as against the great duty which the Democracy owes to Democratic principles, and to the happiness and fortunes of its millions in the South.

What Mr. HARRITY should have said to Mr. Downing is this: "You make a tremendous mistake in supposing that your obligations to your race require that you should regard as in any way an insult to yourself, or as a detriment to the interests of your race, this Democratic campaign for the prevention of Federal interference at the polls, and for the protection of the South against the horrors of Negro Domination. You are intelligent enough to know what bayonet rule and Negro Domination mean. You have seen them and observed their frightful consequences in South Carolina and more than one other prostrate Southern State. You are intelligent enough to know that the Negro Domination that is dreaded is not the domination of colored citizens equal in intelligence and standing to yourself. It is poor service that you render to the interests of your people when you advocate any measure that will help to make the great and densely ignorant majority of Southern negroes once more the tools of reckless adventurers and unscrupulous Republican politicians. With the conditions such as they are in the South at the present day, Federal bayonet rule and Negro Domination would be a greater curse to the Southern blacks than even to the

Southern whites." We believe that this is the view which most colored Democrats of intelligence and high character will take of the Force bill issue. And we believe that, unlike Mr. HENRY F. DOWNING, they will continue to support the ticket of the party whose main purpose is to protect against Federal usurpation and its blighting consequences the rights of American citizenship.

#### How Col. McClure Got His Debate. Our stalwart and accomplished friend,

Col. ALEXANDER KAISER MCCLURE of Philadelphia and the rest of mankind, could not entirely give up his desire for a debate upon the tariff with Major McKINLEY. Weeks and even months have passed since the Colonel tried, but tried in vain, to lure the Major into it. The Major was willing enough, but the Republican National Committee considered the Buckeye BONAPARTE'S time too valuable to be divided with any man. The Colonel was vexed, for he knows his own gift for athletic speech, but he was not inconsolable. He has found a way. On Friday the Major delivered a tariff talk in the Philadelphia Academy of Music. On Monday the Colonel delivered a speech on the same praiseworthy but not immediately interesting subject in the same respectable edifice. The Colonel was three days later than he wished to be, and the debate was not so joint as he onged for, but his singleness of purpose will doubtless be thought to make up for deficiencies of detail. Both speeches are reported in the Philadelphia Times for Tueslay. So Col. McCLURE gets his joint debate at last. On the principle of nunc pro tune and tune pro nunc. It may be considered a joint debate. But what is it to the present purpose?

If Col. McCLURE wants to have a debate upon the living question of the hour, he should swear off from the tariff for a year on one side and Tom REED and JOHN INTIMIDATION DAVENPORT on the other side of the Force bill. That would be a debate worth hearing, although DAVENPORT has been so beaten and buffeted by Senator HILL that REED might be obliged to do the work alone. But the Force bill is the subject which Col. McCLURE should choose if he wants a debate that will make Philadelphia rattle. Joint debates in which one fellow says yea on Friday night and another fellow says nay on Monday night are about as interesting as the tariff itself.

## Ham, the Story Teller.

Our esteemed contemporary the Atlanta Constitution furnishes far too brief a notice of a young Democratic orator who has been filling the Cracker sky with fire. His name is HAM, H. W. J. HAM, a terse but not highly euphonious patronymic, and he comes from the mountains. He belongs to the new race of Georgian stump speakers. In the fat and piping times of Georgia Democracy. when the Republicans were a minority small or inactive, and there was no other opposition to fear, the Georgian political orators could roam about the State or their district with contented mind, make speeches at their own com enience, and loaf through to write a pamphlet dealing with the a campaign composedly and without feeling or exciting emotion. The Farmers' Alliance has brought an end, or at least an interruption, to those gilded and lazy days. A host of cranks and demagogues, of howlers and hustlers, of geysers and roaring gushers, "political spouters, comeout-and-outers" has been heard from. The wonderful Tom Warson has arisen to denounce monopolists by the light of his burning law library. A generation that knows nothing and cares nothing for the old traditions or the old polish came up. The Samjonesization of Georgia reached a political phase, and the Pentecost of the Populists began. One of the results is that the Democratic party of Georgia has had to throw away its cockades and come to business. The academic or classic style is not suited for confuting cranks or cowhides. and it is natural enough that there should be "a set of young bright campaigners who are making fun and fight."

But let us return to our HAM. "Down from the mountains," says the Constitution. swept the party of River and Harbor job-"has come a young fellow who heretofore has been unknown throughout the State only in his own balliwick as a country editor. He had been a member of the Legislature in a quiet, peaceful time, when there was nothing to be done to attract attention. Alighting in a county in the Tenth Congress district, where the brash and breezy campaign between BLACK and WATson had attracted his attention, he proceeded to make a speech for Democracy that has caused all Georgia to look upor him as the wonder from the mountains. He is a tall, strapping, smooth-faced fellow with the air of a comedian."

This young mountaineer of the Democ racy confines most of his speeches to stories. Thus he is able to make a sort of his hearers, salient and graphic, and capable of a sharp and inevitable apologue Story telling is a mighty ticklish business in a company of highly civilized men, especially before dinner. Such a company is apt to believe that the yarn will be old and tedious, and to assume even in the presence of proof that there is nothing new under the sun. Yet there is nothing that take anywhere better than a good pointed story, well told; and the man who can tell it is a chief among men, whether he wears breechcloth or a clawhammer. Mr. HAM seems to be that kind of man, but in considering his stories you must keep in mind the fact that he is addressing a mixed growd, whom he wants to keep in good humor, and persuade into voting with the Democracy. Possibly he would not be a success before the Phi Beta Kappa Society or the Summer School of Ethics, but be good enough to consider that his purpose is political and immediate, not literary or analytically moral. Here is one of his plain tales from the mountains:

"Mr. Warnon, elected as a Democrat, abuses the Democrats and says they have done nothing for the country, but have gone back on every pledge. When hear a man say that I want to tell him the atory or a fellow who wanted to jump a stream on a Texas

"The stream looked like it was about seven feet wide. He didn't notice that the grass drooped ever of either side about three feet. He went back to take run and go over. Here he came lickety-split. When he to rise, he went through the grass into the water over his head. He couldn't swim a lick. He caught hold of the wet, slick grass and got his head out of the water. He thought it was time to pray. He said, 'O Lord, I never stole a horse.' His bold slipped and under he went again. He managed to grab the grass and get his head above the water a second time. This time he said, 'Lord, have mercy upon ms. I never branded another man's cow, ran away with another man's wife, nor burned a house in all my lirs. 'His hold slipped again and he went under. Getting to the surface a third time with greater difficulty he thought he would be honest with the Lord, He said, 'But O Lord Gop, what I liar I have been.'"

This liar story applies still more exactly to the attempt of the Republican party to persuade the country that the Force bill is an abandoned or unimportant measure. And here is a fable which Orator Ham uses to illustrate the fact that most of the best Georgians who went into the third party movement, have drawn out:

"He was a long, lean, lank Georgian with jean pants, red shose, and one gallus fastened with a nall at one end and a button at the other. He was galloping his nule up and down in front of a country doggery. The mule was a fortorn-looking specimen, one ear set forward and the other backward. His hip bones stood out like pegs on a hat rack, and his ribs showed through his hide like a heopskirt through a calleo frock on a windy day. He was sore-backed and wind-galled and saddle-rubbed and harness-marked all over. The fel-low would gallop up and stop, and as a sort of general challenge to the crowd, would swear he had the best

"'Yes,' said one of the hangers on, lounging over the balustrade, with three or four drinks of corn ilquor under his bickory shirt, 'he's a durn good mule.' ". How do you know " said the rider sharply

AWAY. Orator Ham's speeches begin in this

cause all the old elements which have always fought Democracy: the rounders, anollygosters, shoulder-hitters, and sons of guns: the discordant elements, every atom of which is a storm centre of political dis-

integration, are mustered under this plebald banne

of so-called reform. They remind me of a little story. We confess ourselves unable to understand what a "snollygoster" is unless it is a Mugwump in jeans. All the same, we congratulate this young man from the mountains upon his efforts to smash the Populist snolly gosters and all other sons of guns. Hooray for the Cracker CHAUCER. and may his collection of stories divert and convince the crowd. No Force bill; no Negro Domination!

## Tidal Wave Howey Reappears.

Against the Hon. JOHNSTON CORNISH. who is a Democrat, the Republicans of the Fourth district of New Jersey have nominated for Congress the Hon. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HOWEY of Warren county.

The Fourth district is a Democratic stronghold; it must be carried this year by an old-fashioned Democratic majority. Mr. States. It is natural that they should re- and a day, and use all his influence to bring | Convisu is a man of ability and character, | will not be such a grand welcome as the Arions and he is entitled to every Democratic vote in the district. Mr. Howey is a respectable gentleman who is now nominated solely because as a Republican he once carried this same Fourth district, overwhelmingly Democratic as it is, against the Democratic candidate. That was just ten years ago. The Republicans seem to cherish fondly the delusive hope that because the Hon. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HOWEY carried the strong old Democratic Fourth in 1882 he can do it again in 1892.

Let us see. THE SUN happens to know something of the mystery of Mr. Howey's astonishing achievement of ten years ago We supported him for Congress in that year against the Hon. HENRY S. HARRIS, then the Democratic Congressman and a candidate for reflection. Somewhat persistently and for good and sufficient reasons we advised the Democrats of the Fourth district to allow their Democratic representative, Mr. HARRIS, to stay at iome. They took our advice. They allowed HARRIS to stay at home, and that is

how Howey got to Congress. The same thing happened in the Third district, another strong and safe Democratic district. There the Democratic Congressman was the Hon. MILES Ross, and ie was running for reflection. Against the Hon. MILES Ross the Republicans put up the Hon. John KEAN, Jr., now the candidate for Governor against Judge WERTS. Mr. KEAN was young and almost unknown then in politics, but THE SUN advised the Democrats of the Democratic Third to prefer him, even though he was a Republican. to the Democrat who misrepresented them at Washington. They took our advice. KEAN went to Congress and MILES Ross stayed at home.

The explanation of the whole matter lies n the fact that in that year Democratic interests required the exemplary punishment of MILES ROSS and HENRY S. HARRIS. AS Democratic members of the Forty-seventh House they had joined hands with SECOR ROBESON and the profligate Republican majority in that Congress of shameful memoy. They were the Democratic River and Harbor bill jobbers in the celebrated Cheesequake year; and for that reason. and for no other reason, these two recreant Democrats were overwhelmed in the great tidal wave of public indignation which bery out of power. The Democratic campaign of 1882 was prosecuted on that issue only; and it would not have been the illustrious success it was if these two conspicuous Democratic River and Harbor jobbers

had escaped. In MILES Ross's district, the Third, he had been elected to the Forty-seventh Congress in 1880 by 2,772 plurality. He was defeated in 1882 by 2,295 plurality. In Han-RIS's district, the Fourth, the Democratic plurality in 1880 had been 4,173. This was wiped out in 1882, and Hower was elected by 622 plurality. This well-merited chastisement having been administered, both districts resumed their places, two years

later, in the Democratic column That is why the Hon, BENJAMIN FRANKparty, and elect a Democratic Presi- rude, primitive poetry, intelligible to all LIN Howey enjoys the prestice of baving

een elected as a Republican in the banner Democratic district of New Jersey. The lightning struck him that year, just as it would have struck any other decent Republican in his place. This year Mr. Howey is not supported by THE SUN, and he is not running against a River and Harbor Democrat on the issue of honest appropriations.

### A Game for Two to Play At.

The seizures of British sealing vessels in Behring Sea this year for violations of the nodus vivendi agreement have not been more striking or suggestive than the arrests of such vessels in American waters for

iolating port regulations. The capture of the Coquitian early in the season was a bitter pill for the Victoria shipowners, as she had on board much of the spring catch of their sealing schooners for sending home. Now we have two more such selzures, one that of the British sealer Henrietta, boarded by the Corwin at Ounaaska for having transferred cargo at Touki Bay without first securing permission, and the other that of the British sloop Sigrid. seized by Capt. TozIER of the Wolcott for falling to report to the Custom House at Tacoma on entering that port.

In these cases the offence committed is the technical one of neglecting or violating certain port regulations. This is just what has cost the New England fishermen so many fines and detentions during the last half a dozen years. There is nothing criminal in the acts, but they expose the offender to certain penalties for the infraction of rules which every Government has a right to make. For the last year or two the Gloucester and Portland fishermen have been more on their guard.

On the northwest coast, as on the coasts of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, there may formerly have been a certain latitude in such matters, or a disposition not to punish severely a technical offence wherever there was a reasonable excase for the offender. The rules were perhaps not construed overstrictly, and some minor transgressions of them may have been winked at. But just as on the Atlantic shore the revival of the fishery controversy a few years ago caused the Dominion authorities to execute their port regulations with the great est strictness, thereby catching some of the Yankee fishermen who were not prepared for the change, so this year, in the north west, the quarrel over the seals has produced a like severity in the execution of the port regulations there.

It is a kind of contest in which there are blows to take as well as to give. One of these days our friends across the border will see the eminent wisdom of being hospitable and neighborly, and of studying the mutual interests of the Dominion and the United States.

The Chicago Free-Trader says that "no protectionist is willing that any law shall be passed by Congress for the restriction of immigration." We can assure the Free-Trader that this remark is incorrect.

Mr. CLEVELAND makes a passing refer ence to the immigration question in his letter of acceptance; but he refrains from offering any specific suggestion regarding it. It is a manlike manner at the next session of Congress, and upon which we must have broad sound, judicious, and effective legislation We shall continue to strive to obtain such legislation. We must have it. It cannot be de layed with safety to our country and our independent liberties.

This is the best way. It is the way Col. ABRA-MAR Stursey of the Second ward secured the military, benors which have given him national celebrity—w

his best and most enduring fame.

But it is School Reform that gives SLUPSET

The welcome to the Arion singers, who have got back here from Germany, will be given on Saturday evening, and the other singing societies of the city, including the Liederkranz, will be out on the occasion. It got during the summer in a score of the cities of Germany and Austria, or such a welcome as we think they ought to get in New York There will be a torchlight parade, a commers or festival, choral singing by half a dozer societies, and alas! but of course in this country, speeches. We are pleased that so many of the musical organizations of the city have agreed to unite in this welcome home to the Arions.

An American in London sends the Tribune a letter about some things there that are queen to him as a student of English manners and customs. In a barber's shop near High Holborn he was confronted with this notice: " Hatroutting, 6d ; shaving, 3d.; cleaning and scrap

ing teeth 6d. Double charge for ladies "

The Tribune's American was surprised by the public display of this notice, but, in look ing around London, he saw other signs that caused him to marvel.

In so far as we know, the teeth-scraping art has not been taken up by any of the barbers of New York. We do not believe they would make money by it. for every self-respecting New Yorker polishes his own self-defenders.

We must suppose that the customers of these London teeth sorapers are persons who have ong neglected one of the important duties of life, to wit, the daily use of a tooth brush, as sixpence is a good deal of English money to pay out for a job that, in ordinary cases, or at least in American practice, ought not to take more than a minute's time. We can hardly imagine even a London barber putting sixpence worth of real work into a single example of teeth scraping. And then to think-if any American could think-of the horrifying addendum to the London teeth-scraper's price

"Double charge for ladies!!!" We have forgotten the name of the Asiatic country-perhaps it is China-in which tooth brushes can be hired for temporary service at a very cheap price; but we are disposed to regard that way of doing things as far better than the way of the London barber who advertises his peculiar industry.

#### THE NEW STATES DEMOCRATIC. Their Twenty Electoral Votes Thought to be Coming to Cleveland by Fusion,

From the New York Times. Br. Paut. Minn., Sept. 27,-From despatches received here to night from Democratic State Committeemen and others, it is evident that work is well under way which may perhaps deprive the Republicans of every one of the twenty electoral votes of the six Northwes

ern States recently admitted to the Union.

A despatch from Grand Forks says the two People's electors will be withdrawn and the names of the Democratic candidates substituted. The People's party's third nomince is already on the Democratic ticket, and has pledged himself to vote for Cloveland if elected. From Olympia, Wash., comes the news that the dea or fusion in Washington will be put through next week fue plan is to surrender the State ticket to the People's party, they withdrawing their electors and voting for

Idaho and Wyoming and South Dakota and Montani will be in line as soon as plans already agreed upon can be carried out. The turn of affairs is a strange one. It throws twenty electoral votes to the opposition which, when the States were admitted, were considered sure A Formidable Autagenist.

against Senator Hill of New York. A Befective Combination Johnny Bellows-Pape, buy me a dog, won't you! " Do. pieges, page. Tro gots san and a miles."

From the Chicago News Record, Several of our most estimable Republican friends

sem to be conducting their Presidential campaign

STATISTICS WITHOUT VALUE From a Worthless and Mischlevous Be

partment.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26 .- In a recent number of our esteemed contemporary, the Country man, appears a letter from the Assistant Statistician of the Department of Agriculture. in which some unqualified and astonishing claims are propounded for the "conservatism and wonderful accuracy" of the reports of that department and especially of the estimates of the departmental statistician who has had charge of the Statistical Division for well

nigh thirty years. That our readers may have a clear conception of the "conservatism and wonderful accu-racy" of the reports and estimates of the department, we quote from the letter of the As sistant Statistician:

Nor are the reports always in favor of the con sumer and against the producer. In 1870, and again in 1880, the returns of the national census show ei-them conservative, and the tabulation of the census of 890 again proves their conservatism and wonderfu accuracy. The farm enumeration for 1839, made at an expense of millious of dollars, with results announced three years after the crops were gathered, in the aggregate of cereals exceeds the department estimatmade in December, 1939, by less than two per cen in the face of this vindication of both the accurac and conservatism of the department estimates, it will require unusual hardibood for speculators and their illes to repeat again the charge that farmers are it jured and values depressed by overestimates from the Statistician of the Department of Agriculture.

Taking the comparative showings in chrono ogical order it is found that the census and the reports of the Department of Agriculture show the crops of 1809 to have produced staples as follows:

PRODUCT.	de per france of 1570. Bushele,	Quantities us per Department Heparts Euchels	Difference in Quantities, Bushels,	Per cent.
Walze Wheat Oats Rye Harley R'ek wheat Potatoes	760,945,000 287,746,000 282,107,000 16,016,000 29,761,000 1,822,000 143,327,000	874,820,000 290,147,000 288,334,000 22,528,900 28,052,000 17,481,600	113.375,000+ 27,519,000- 6,227,000+ 5,609,000- 1,109,000- 7,009,000+ 9,451,000-	16+ 0- 35+ 77+

mparison of comsus and departmental returns for the crops of 1800 show those of the professional statistician to be so "conservative and wonderfully accurate" that his over estimates range from 2 per cent. for oats up to 77 per cent. for buckwhest; and the range of hese compound guesses extends from a deficit of 0 per cent. to an excess of 77. If this is the vindication" to which the Assistant Statistician "points with pride." It is probable that most amateur statisticians would prefer not to be vindicated.

The census of 1880 enables us to see how conservative and wonderfully accurate" the department was in its estimates of acreage as well as products in 1879; and tabulating crop areas first, the acreages are found to compare

Product.	Acres ns per Census	Acres as per Department.	Difference in Acres.	Per cent.
Maire Whent Oats Rye Barley Huck wheat Tobacco Cotton Hay	62,369,000 35,480,000 16,145,000 1,842,000 848,000 639,000 14,480,000 30,681,000	32,546,000 12,684,000 1,625,000 1,681,000	2,884,000- 8,461,000- 217,000-	
-	164,882,000	142,834,000	21,548,000	15-

of that "conservatism and wonderful accu-racy" which the officials of the department take such pleasure in parading for the delecta-tion of that confiding public which is supposed o accept without question every statement having the official brand, even if it enables the statistician to let 21,000,000 acres out of a total of 104,000,000 stray away from his fold and be lost to sight until returned to the owner by the vindicating census.

This sample of department accuracy is so

We find in these figures abundant evidence

wonderful that it places the corn area more than a sixth below the determination of the vindicating census, and another cereal onethird below, the variations of this conservatism being from minus () per cent. to minus 33 Cortainly wonderful accuracy, and the vindica-

Acres being tangible things and changing neither place nor dimensions, it ought not to astonish us if the professional statisticians of the department should arrive at results, as in this case, not more than 33 per cent, out of line with those of the census; but it is possible that a better test will appear upon an examination of yields, which are elusive and intandifficult to estimate correctly. Thus they afford less chance for that conservatism which has been so notably displayed in dealing with acreage, enabling the department to protect he interests of the producer without wronging the consumer.

Careful examination of returns and yields of the harvests of 1879, as tabulated by the con sus of 1880 and by the Department of Agriculture in its report for 1879, and set forth in the following table, will enable the reader to value at their real worth the claims set up for the

PRODUCE.	Quantities do per femons, Bushels,	Department.	In Gerence in Quanti- ties. Bushele.	Per cent.
Maize Wheat	1,751,592 (01) 459,683,000	1,547,982,000 468,757,000	206,090,000-	13
Oats Rye Barley	19,832 000 43,997,000	23,639,030 40,283,000	3.807.000+ 3.714.000-	12
Buckwheat.	11,817,000	13,140,000	1.323,000+	11-

It appears from this that the conservatism extended to the yields in smaller measure as to the areas and in not the same degree to any two products, and the accuracy which estimated potatoes, rye, and buckwheat in excess of the census was probably just as great as, and no less than, that which estinates the yield of all the other staples below the determinations of the census; and yet we are bound, having official assurance to that effect, to believe that all these erratic variations represent only "conservatism and ac-

It may, in explanation, be claimed for the estimates of the seventh and eighth decades that they are ancient history when the science "conservative and wonderfully accurate statistics was in its youth and the statistician had not yet learned the pace of the American farmer. This view is commended by the fact that the department kept steadily in advance of the procession through the seventh decade, and was forced when the census of 1870 came to be taken, to lower its speed; but in so doing it seems not to have made sufficient allowance for the momentum of the American yeomanry; and at the end of the eighth decade it is found lagging superfluous

Having thus been taught in the school of experience, the professional statistician became wise and wary, and upon taking the census of 1890, was apparently in a position where vindication of his later efforts would be inevitable. Since the crop of 1888 the public has not been favored with even the shred of an estimate, accurate or other, as to the area employed in growing staples or the quantity produced other than of corn wheat, and oats; and even the acreage of these crops has probably been furnished only to the clamor that might arise from the "short sellers." who desire these estimates that they may the better conserve the interest of the farmer. Hence we are yet unable to say what have been the areas levoted since 1888 to any of the great staples. except corn. wheat, and oats. As for the thers, it will be more conservative and tend to greater accuracy not to publish either acreage or product estimates until the Consus Bureau shall have made its guess, although the Agricultural Department costs millions. and was created for the express purpose of furnishing such estimates while the crops were going to market.

Up to this time the Census Bureau has de termined the 1880 area and yield in cereals in some twenty-seven States and Territories; and grouping the wheat and corn acreages in and grouping the wheat and corn acreages in some of the more important of these, it is reason that the department, in order the better that the present troube will lead to the building of more commediates market as commediates than the town now empty.

ccuracy" of the department assumes the

following form: CORN ACREAGES.

WHEAT ACREAGES.

The manifestation of "conservatism and wonderful accuracy" department is seen to be something picturesque when it is found that the corn acreag in Illinois exceeds that of the census by only two per cent.; yet the overestimates rise to 17 per cent. in Iowa, 58 per cent. in New England, and 125 per cent. in California, while the conservatism is tempered by an underestimate of 34 per cent. in so great a corn producing State as Nebraska.

New England and California produce little corn, and an overestimate of 58 and 125 per cent., respectively, would have little or no of the department has evidently found it was safe to give the freest kind of rein to his talent for "conservatism and accuracy." Thus the 000 acres in Iowa is very nicely and scientifically adjusted by an underestimate of 1,385,000 acres just across the Missouri River

in Nebraska. For the highest flights of "vindicating conservatism and accuracy" we have, however, to look to the comparative tabulations of wheat acreages, as there the overestimates are not complicated by any underestimates whatever, but rise in rapid gradations from a mild 7 per cent. in Illinois to 174 in Iowa and 380 in New England, the grand climax being reached at 802 per cent. in Alabama.

Probably these differences, which smack so of conservatism and accuracy, spring from the fact that the departmental officials having constantly a pressure of political labor in hand, have inadvertently fallen, as a matter o convenience, into the habit of adding about so much to the acreage in each State at given periods, ranging from one to five years; and until the taking of the last "vindicating" census they had not awakened to the fact that some of the Western States had very complotely occupied their arable lands and ceased adding to them, while the departmental estimating or guessing machines being wound up and set to a given speed, kept right on. The result has been that the pace proved too fast for Iowa, and yet the Nebraska machine was not speeded high enough for that partially undeveloped State.

This appears to be the most intelligible explanation for the continued publication of these singularly "conservative" and "accurate" reports. Thus the department is ound stating the corn acreage of Nebraska in 1888 at exactly 4.097,097 acres, and neither more nor less in 1889, the machine having evidently come to a dead halt, although the nconsiderate people of that State went right shead adding new corn fields. This is, h ever, no exceptional case, as the machines took just such rests in nearly all the States. some of them extending over periods of three, four, and five years. For instance, in Delaware the register shows no change

the corn acreage from 1885 to 1888, and in the wheat acreage of that State t marks the same number of acres (94.790) six years out of the seven ending with 1890. Michigan farmers are reported as planting ust 967,513 acres of corn in 1888, and that dentical number again in 1889, while those of Indiana were satisfied with 3,720,681 acres of maize in 1885 and repeated the exact dose in 1886. So those of Illinois planted 8,151,463 in 1883 and duplicated that acreage in 1884; while the conservative people of Missouri were so thoughtful as to gave work for the machine by planting just the same 6,796,318 acres for three years in succession.

The machines having in hand the arduous

labor of guessing the acreage in wheat, have found frequent rests necessary. For instance, the Connecticut machine took a three years' breathing spell in the middle of the decade; that at work in New York came to a halt at 640,540 acres in 1890, and, so far as the public has been informed, has not moved since; the Jersey machine has taken several rests of rom one to three years; and the farmers of Pennsylvania determined in 1891 to duplicate exactly the 1,337,437 acres of wheat sown in 1890; while the wheat area of Minnesota remained stationary for two years at 3,143,917

The machines employed in guessing the areas in oats took less frequent rests, but when we come to those at work in the hay lelds, the rests are seen to be extraordinary in number and extending over exceptionally long periods. This is due, probably, to the fact that meadows often remain for years unvexed by the plough. Yet who is there in this broad republic who believes reports of the department which show that the farmers of the great State of New York neither ploughed up an old meadow nor laid down a new one from 882 to 1887, are either "conservative or wonderfully accurate"? Or that the hay area of New York remained during these years at exactly 4.002.158 acres? Is there any New York farmer who believes the area under hay in this State shrank from 4.500,000 acres in 1868 to 2.987,012 acres in 1800, or 34 per cent.? Or that the meadows of Indiana increased from 1,409,000 in 1885 to 2,480,000 in 1896, or 08 per cent., and then decreased by 908,000 acres the second year thereafter? Or who believes that the area under hay in Minnesota diminished from 2,048,000 acres in 1885 to 480,000 in 1880, and from 1887 to 1888 increased from 404,000 to 1,625,000 acres, or nearly 300 per cent., with no material increase in the num-

What jayhawker believes that the area under hay in Kansas increased from 1,371,000 acres in 1882 to an even 3,500,000 in 1883, or 155 per cent., and again shrank from 3,040,000 acres in 1885 to 1,320,000 in 1886? Is it probable that during 1886, 1887, and 1888 the meadows of Indiana covered an area neither more nor less than 2,573,970 acres? these grotesque and incredible statements. and hundreds more of like character, appear in the reports, which we are officially assured "conservative and wonderfully accu-

The officials of the department now come before the public with the statement that the tabulations of the census of 1890 show that the aggregate of cereals produced in 1889, as letermined by such tabulations, exceeds by less than two per cent. the aggregate as announced by the department as early as Desember, 1880. One is inclined to question this statement when it is remembered that since 1888 the department has exercised the utmost care not to announce the aggregate of cereals produced in any one year, or last three years, having carefully confined its announcements to corn, wheat, and oats, this abstantion extending to acreage as well as quantity of grain grown; and the same ourse has been pursued in relation to all the crops other than the three named. Moreover, if the Census Bureau has made tabulations showing the aggregate of all cereais produced in the census year, they must have been made for the special benefit and information of the department requiring this sort of information, as no public announcement has been made of such determiations; and, even if made, there are no estimates, either in the reports of December of 880 or in other reports of the department which will enable any one, in or out of the department, to say whether the tabulation of ereals by the census is within two per cent. or 200 per cent. of all the cereals produced, as estimated by the department, for the sufficient

found that the "conservatism and wonderful | ter to serve its own ends, or those of its offclais, has deliberately neglected the one duty for which it exists, and has abstained from showing cereal and other crop production. other than corn. wheat, and oats, either in de-

tail or in the aggregate.
The census bulletins thus far published show only the quantities of cereals produced in twenty-four States and three Territories. and only by the wildest stretch of the "conservative" imagination of the "professional" department statistician can a satisfactory comparison be instituted between such frag-mentary data and the still more fragmentary data furnished by the department relating to the crops of 1889, 1890, and 1891, especially when the census has, as yet, made no determination of the amounts of grain produced in 1880 in such States as New York, Pennsyle vania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, and

With these facts in view, the conclusion is inevitable that the officials are practising upon the credulity of a patient public, and the old. old question again obtrudes: Can a department requiring for its conduct the widest knowledge, the broadest views, the most conscientious handling of data, and absolute honesty and truthfulness of statement, be engineered by a mere politician, assisted by charlatans who are pretentious and barnacles who are ancient?

# THE FACIS AS THEY WERE.

Gen. Butler in the Grand Army Parado.

From the Lowell Morning Times.
The accounts of the episode at Washington where Gon. Butler is alleged by Commanderin-Chief Palmer of the G. A. R. to have turned his carriage near the reviewing stand and ridden back along the line, creating great disorder, have excited attention all over the country. But the accounts misrepresent Gen. Butler's purpose and action, in spite of the fact

try. But the accounts misrepresent Gen. Butler's purpose and action, in spite of the fact
that the alleged occurrence is regarded even
by some of his admirers as characteristic.

The Times and an interview last evening
with Col. C. A. R. Dimon. Past Commander of
Post 42, who is cognizant of the facts, and he
gave an account of the affair which varies essentially from that heretofore published, although Commander Palmer may have told,
with the light he had, what he thought was
the truth.

Col. Dimon's story places the matter in a
new light, and shows that when Gen. Butler
had his carriage turned it was to respond to
an honor specially accorded to him. He did
not turn his carriage out of pique or to create
confusion or to attract special attention, although the result was an ovation unparalleled
in the records of the whole grand occasion.

The story is substantially as follows: Gen.
Butler had the night previous to the grand review accepted the invitation of B. F. Butler
Post, 42, of which he is a member, to ride with
it. It was early shown that the pressure of
those who desired to shake hands with the
General would be great, and Dr. Cilley had
expressed the opinion that the Goneral was
not equal to the physical trial. At least something should be done to mitigate the strain.

For this reason Major E. T. Rowell, Commander of Post 42, detailed Col. Dimon and
Capt. J. P. Thompson to walk beside the General's carriage and so far as possible make it
easy for the latter.

The line moved past the reviewing stand,
where Gen. Butler gravely and courteously
lifted his hat in saluto to Commander-in-Chief
Palmer. Several squares beyond the carriage
was turned slightly to one side, and Dr. Cilley
was turned slightly to one side, and Dr. Cilley
was turned slightly to one side, and Dr. Cilley
was turned slightly to one side, and Dr. Cilley
was turned slightly to one side, and Dr. Cilley
was turned slightly to one side, and Dr. Cilley
was turned slightly to one side, and Dr. Cilley
was turned slightly to one sid

party.
While waiting a messenger approached Col.
Dimon and presented the compliments of VicePresident Morton to Gen. Butler, with the request that the General come to the reviewing
stand to be received by the Vice-President. BANDS AND SOLDIERS WENT WILD,

stand to be received by the Vice-President.

BANDS AND SOLDIERS WENT WILD.

The General, of course, accepted the invitation from the acting head of the nation, and the carriage was turned about in the broad the carriage was turned about in the broad the carriage. It was kept close to the curbstone, and the mere passage of the carriage in no way interfered with the procession.

But just as soon as the familiar and rugged features of Gen. Butler, who, besides tien, Rosecrans, was the only department commander of the civil war there, were recognized the enthusiasm broke forth. The bands, for a second silent, one after the other rang out the notes of 'Hall to the Chief,' a prolonged cheer went up, old soldiers reckless of discipline rushed from the ranks and surged around the carriage, and along the line the hundreds of thousands of people who came to see took up the acclaim, the whole contributing an ovation never exceeded in Washington.

So great was the pressure to shake hands with the General that the detail had several times to caution the old veterans and exclaim, "Go light, boys; go light!" Dr. Cilley came to the rescue, and held the General by the wrist, so that there could be no pulling during the handshaking, which he restricted even then. Still down the long line arose that appontaneous wave of enthusiasm and music, rising and falling as new divisions caught sight of the General and the cause of the excitement.

The vets pressed closer and closer, and one

cliement.
The vets pressed closer and closer, and one old comrade from the far West clambered over the back of the carriage and exclaimed, "General, if I can't shake your hand I must tell my wife when I go back that I have touched your cont."

eral, if can't shake your hand I must tell my wife when I go back that I have touched your cont."

This is only one of the several incidenta. But at last the Presidential quarters were reached, and Gen. Butler alighted and remained in conversation with the Vice-President about an hour, the only guest on that platform. After that he went to his own quarters. No conversation passed between him and Gen. Palmer, and the only communication was the published letters.

The solution of the matter is that the General was looked upon as an old man, one of the few surviving central figures of the civil war, out of politics and out of active public life. Never was there a more spontaneous tribute to the past services of the General, and he was proud of it; not only proud, but so affected that the silent tears stole down even his rugged cheeks at the cordiality of the tribute, the memory of where it came from and the circumstances which brought it forth. Such is the true story of the episode, the erroneous accounts of which should not be allowed to pass uncorrected into history. Col. Dinon is of the opinion that Commander Palmer may have been informed of these facts since, but could not have been aware of them when he made the statements regarding the matter. Gen. Butler is thus relieved of the aspersion of discourtesy in those statements and shown to have received an ovation while responding to an act of courtesy.

## SUNBEAMS.

-The Germans are trying the experiment of intro-ducing coolle labor into East Africa. They recently landed 500 Chinese coolles at Tanga, whence they were taken some distance inland to the cotton and were plantations at Lews and Damers. This experi-ment may prove a disastrous failure, as it is not at all certain that the Chinese can thrive under the unfavor able conditions they will meet in equatorial Africa.

-Every New York dealer in foreign books intended for the use of immigrants finds it necessary to keep a history of the United States and a life of Washington in whatever tongue is spoken by his customers. These books are published in French, German, Italian, Span ish, Russian, Swedish, Danish, and the various tongues of central Europe. Prayer books, Bibles, grammars, and dictionaries alone have a larger sale with immi grants. Such volumes are usually of foreign publica-

-A disinterested person recently made an unintentional test of the thorough manner in which the Socie-ty for the Organization of Charities does its work. Having seen a woman begging with a habe at her breast and a larger child at her knee he learned ber story and reported it at the office of the society. A feet days later he received from the registrar of this socie y a minute report upon the woman's care weeks later he received another report, at a ne that the society had investigated the former when a third report came, saying that the said and her children had returned to England.

the ting the -The native newspapers of Japan are decay of good manners among new well herd Japanrese girls. They assert that under systematical brought from foreign lands the many ! temale life have one by one been abandened modern girl. in her attempts to imitate for most transformed herself into a tiers, has al they say that pupils to the female schools at good families unattended in may be seen playing cards bouses. The Japan Mail, commenting upon these war plaints, says that it is a subject for regret that same schools conducted on Western lines should alread to outforce a new code of morals among the natives.

-The shopkeepers of 11 m, tok, the capital of State, have been greatly distor of by a notice that their rents are to be largely in reased. The big market in Bangkok belongs to one of the lavorites of the Suitan's harem, and she has ther ased the rents of the small buts composing the market about 50 percent. shapkeepers went through the town ordering all all pa to be closed as a protest sgatust the increased tent. Some shops ventured to open their doors, but the threatening stitlude of the discontented shopkeepers. compelled them at once to close again, at last ac-counts the Sheriff had been ordered to send a large detardment of his poons to keep the cross-station school inggoods during the varieties. A Bengacian compe-